In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-38 and 39-47.

Please amend claim 39 as follows:

39. In a method for broadcasting data to a television set using a carrier signal such as a television or commercial radio carrier signal, the improvement comprising:

constructing a data stream from individual first record of a transmission database, each first record comprising one of a selection of formats, at least one of the first records comprising executable program code or an object;

broadcasting the data stream within the carrier signal;

providing a user with a user's device for receiving and decoding the data stream, the user's device receiving and decoding the data stream to a user's database, the user's database having second records comprising at least some of the first records, the second records comprising one of a selection of formats and at least one record comprising executable program code or an object broadcast from the first records;

determining the format a second record using a control program;

running, when required, the executable program code; and

generating a display on the television consistent with the format determined by the control program.

[A distributed database system comprising:

a central station for accumulating and distributing data on a database, said central station comprising:

a data store for storing accumulated data from said database, ready for distribution;

processing means for extracting said data from said data store and generating a sequential data stream therewith for distribution;

and transmission means for encoding and transmitting said sequential data stream;

and a plurality of receiver stations for receiving said data and

selectively making available at least portions of said data in accordance with the demands of a user of a said receiver station, each of said receiver stations comprises:

decoder means to receive and decode transmitted data so as to reconstitute said database data therefrom;

input means for the user of said receiver station to input user commands in respect of the demands of the user to said receiver station;

receiver processing means for constituting a database from said data having regard to said user commands;

memory means for storing data for constituting said database; and

means for communicating selected data in direct response to said user commands;

wherein said decoder means includes:

data acquisition means for extracting a serial data stream and a synchronization signal from the transmitted data;

a data decoder to filter out data control information from said serial data stream and reconstitute said database data; and

transfer means to continuously transfer a stream of reconstituted data to said receiver processing means, and

wherein said receiver processing means includes:

further decoder means to examine said stream of reconstituted data and extract index data therefrom;

and database handling means to determine storage of individual database data in accordance with a prescribed algorithm,

whereby in response to a decision to store or update said individual database data, said database handling means is adapted to transfer said individual database data to a requisite storage location in said memory means and perform contingency action according to said prescribed algorithm involving changing the structure of said database so as to continuously constitute said database.]

Please add new claims 48-81, below.

48. The method of claim 39, wherein at least one first record comprises stream data and the display on the television comprises an audio presentation.

49. The method of claim 39, wherein at least one first record comprises index data and the display on the television comprises menus based on the index data.

50. The method of claim 39, further comprising the steps of supplying the user's database with requested records, the requested records being the result of a return link established between a microprocessor which operates with the user's database and the transmission database, the return link established at least in part via a telephonic network.

51. The method of claim 50, wherein a second data stream is received over the return link.

52. The method of claim 39, wherein the data stream comprises one or more data objects represented by information encoded in a first object and packet based protocol.

53. The method of claim 52, wherein the information is broadcast in a second packet based protocol.

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54. In a method for broadcasting data to a television set using a carrier signal such as a television or commercial radio carrier signal, the improvement comprising:

constructing a data stream from the records of a transmission database; and

the database having individual first records, each first record comprising one of a selection of formats, at least one of the first records comprising executable program code or an object; broadcasting the data stream within the carrier signal.

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55. The method of claim 54, wherein at least one first record comprises stream data and the display on the television ~~comprise~~ comprises an audio presentation.

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56. The method of claim 54, wherein at least one first record comprises index data and the display on the television comprises menus based on the index data.

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57. The method of claim 54, further comprising the step of supplying a user's database with requested records, the requested records being the result of a return link established between a microprocessor which operates with the user's database and the transmission database, the return link established at least in part via a telephonic network.

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58. The method of claim 57, wherein a second data stream is received over the return link.

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59. The method of claim 54, wherein the data stream comprises one or more data objects represented by information encoded in a first object and packet based protocol.

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60. The method of claim 59, wherein: the information is broadcast in a second packet based protocol.

61. In a method for receiving data for a television display using a carrier signal such as a television or commercial radio carrier signal, the improvement comprising:

receiving a carrier signal and from it decoding a data stream to a user's database, the user's database comprising individual records comprising records recovered from the data stream, the individual records comprising one of a selection of formats and at least one record comprising executable program code or an object broadcast from the first records;

determining the format an individual record using a control program;

running, when required, the executable program code; and

generating a display on the television consistent with the format determined by the control program.

62. The method of claim 61, wherein the data stream further comprises stream data and the display on the television comprises an audio presentation.

63. The method of claim 61, wherein at least one first record comprises index data and the display on the television comprises menus based on the index data.

64. The method of claim 61, further comprising the step of supplying the user's database with requested records, the requested records being the result of a return link established between a microprocessor which operates with the user's database and a transmission database, the return link established at least in part via a telephonic network.

65. The method of claim 64, wherein a second data stream is received over the return link.

66. The method of claim 61, wherein the data stream comprises one or more data objects represented by information encoded in a first object and packet based protocol.

67. The method of claim 66, wherein the information is broadcast in a second packet based protocol.

68. In a communications device such as a personal computer or television or set top box adapted to receive a data stream broadcast over a carrier signal, such as a television or radio carrier signal, the improvement comprising:

a receiver for receiving broadcast database records;

a decoder and processor for extracting individual data records from the data stream to a user's database, the user's database comprising individual user records comprising at least some records recovered from the broadcast database records;

the user records recovered from the broadcast database records comprising one of a selection of formats and at least one record comprising executable program code or an object broadcast from the first records;

a control program for determining the format a user record;

a processor for running, when required, the executable program code; and

a display generator for creating a display consistent with the format determined by the control program.

69. The device of claim 68, wherein the data stream further comprises stream data and the display comprises an audio presentation.

70. The device of claim 68, wherein at least one user record comprises index data broadcast in the broadcast database data and the display comprises menus based on the index data.

71. The device of claim 68, further comprising a return link for sending commands to supply the user's database with requested records, the return link established between a microprocessor which operates with the user's database and a transmission database, the return link established at least in part via a telephonic network.

72. The device of claim 71, wherein a second data stream is received over the return link.

73. The device of claim 68, wherein the data stream comprises one or more data objects represented by information encoded in a first object and packet based protocol.

74. The device of claim 73, wherein the information is broadcast in the data stream in a second packet based protocol.

75. In a device for broadcasting a carrier signal such as a television or commercial radio carrier signal to a user, the improvement comprising:

a computer having a transmission database;

the database having individual first records, each first record comprising one of a selection of formats, at least one of the first records comprising executable program code or an object;

an encoder for creating a packet based data stream constructed at least in part from the first records;

an inserter for inserting the data stream into another signal and a transmitter for broadcasting the data stream.

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76. The device of claim 75, wherein at least one first record comprises stream data and the display comprises an audio presentation.

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77. The device of claim 75, wherein at least one first record comprises index data used for displaying to the user menus based on the index data.

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78. The device of claim 75, further comprising a return link for accepting user requested records, the link established between a microprocessor operated by the user and the transmission database, the return link established at least in part via a telephonic network.

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79. The device of claim 78, wherein a second data stream is received over the return link.

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80. The device of claim 75, wherein the data stream comprises one or more data objects represented by information encoded in a first object and packet based protocol.

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81. The device of claim 80, wherein the information is broadcast in a second packet based protocol.

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